

News

fire information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Rehabilitation beginning on BLM lands in Southwest Utah

On November 29th the Bureau of Land Management will begin aerial seeding 25,000 acres of BLM land in southwestern Utah that burned as a result of the 2004 fire season. Three aerial seeding contracts have been awarded. The aerial seeding operations will be based out of the Cedar City, Hurricane, Parowan, and St. George airports. Initially, the seeding operations will be based out of the St. George airport where the seed will be loaded and flown to the nearby sites of last summer's Square, Dammeron, and Utah Hill Fires. Residents can expect increased noise in the surrounding areas as a result of the seeding activity.

In addition, six other fires will be reseeded including the Hawkins Fire near Enterprise, the Little Creek Fire southeast of Hurricane, and the Kane Springs Fire south of Minersville

Aerial seeding is weather dependent and requires dry conditions with winds less than 15 MPH. BLM personnel will be on site to monitor seed application.

Over 220,000 pounds of native and non-native seed have been tested and mixed by contractors. Semi-desert grass, shrub, and forb (fleshy plants) species that can establish in arid conditions were chosen for the rehabilitation. Each of the fires will receive a different seed mixture based upon site conditions and recommendations from BLM Biologists, Range Specialists, Fuels Managers, and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources personnel.

By re-establishing desirable vegetation in the burned areas as quickly as possible, the BLM hopes to decrease soil erosion and to fend off invading weeds such as cheat grass, while retaining the natural function of the area following wildfire. Other rehabilitation efforts that will follow the aerial seeding include chaining to cover and enhance seeding success, and fence construction to protect the new seedlings from over grazing.

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